

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 19, as follows:

The coupling agent is generally chosen from silanes, such as  $\alpha$   $\gamma$ -glycidoxypropyltrimethoxysilane,  $\alpha$   $\gamma$ -acryloxypropyltrimethoxysilane,  $\alpha$   $\gamma$ -methacryloxypropyltrimethoxysilane, poly(oxyethylene/oxypropylene)trimethoxysilane,  $\alpha$   $\gamma$ -aminopropyltriethoxysilane, vinyltrimethoxysilane, phenylaminopropyltrimethoxysilane, styrylaminoethylaminopropyl-trimethoxysilane or *tert*-butylcarbamoylpropyltrimethoxysilane, siloxanes, titanates, zirconates and mixtures of these compounds. Preferably, silanes are chosen.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 2, as follows:

The procedure was as in example 1, the sizing composition comprising (in percent by weight):

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| • linoleic acid   | 20 |
| • hydroxyl-terminated polybutadiene <sup>(5)</sup><br>(molecular mass: 1220)        | 18 |
| • 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,3-pentanediol monoisobutyrate <sup>(8)</sup>                    | 17 |
| • ethoxylated (4 EO) lauric alcohol <sup>(2)</sup>                                  | 15 |
| • mixture of methyl esters of adipic,<br>succinic and glutaric acids <sup>(6)</sup> | 25 |
| • $\phi$ $\gamma$ -methacryloxypropyltrimethoxysilane <sup>(9)</sup>                | 7  |
| • $\phi$ $\gamma$ -glycidoxypropyltrimethoxysilane <sup>(10)</sup>                  | 3  |